

S E P T E M B E R 6 2 0 2 0



But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD... Micah 3:8 (NIV)

Thought for today...

It's 5.45am. There is a strange juddering sound and then a sudden stillness. I realise that the power has gone off, as I can no longer hear the faint hum of the pump in the fish tank.

A quick check of the main power switch leads me to conclude that the issue is a wider one affecting more than just my home, and seeing other homes in complete darkness, and no street lamps on confirms my assumption. On calling the company responsible for providing the power, they are unaware of a problem, but tell me that they will investigate. A half hour later, and I am informed that there is a faulty piece of equipment at my local substation, and that the issue is likely to take 6 hours to resolve.

The strange sound before the silence was a warning sign to me that something was wrong; the silence and darkness that followed allowed me to pinpoint the exact moment that my power supply was cut.

As I began to pray about the situation, the story of Samson came to mind. The Bible tells us that Samson was a man who was endowed with great strength from God - as long as his hair remained uncut (Judges 16:17-19).



I wondered about Samson and whether he had considered any events that occurred in his life as warning signs. Judges 16:20 informs us that **'he did not know that the LORD had departed from him'**; I wondered then of Samson's thoughts when it finally dawned on him that God's power had left him.

Jesus told His disciples **“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”** Luke 24:49 (NLT)

I pray that as followers of Christ, we will stay in the city and wait for the power of the Holy Spirit! That we will be alert to recognise and heed any warning signs that indicate a loss of God's power at work in our lives, and that we will not find ourselves acting in our own strength, resulting in us being powerless and ineffective.

Powerful: effective, effectual, mighty, potent. Strong enough to knock down or overwhelm. Having great influence.
Opposite●
Powerless: lacking power, feeble, helpless, impotent ineffective, ineffectual.

When addressing the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul was keen to point out his reliance on the Holy Spirit's power: **'And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit.'** 1 Corinthians 2:4 (NLT)

And Paul's encouragement to the Ephesians: **'Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.'** Ephesians 6:10 (NIV)

As I continue to write this thought, a few hours have passed and power has now been restored. My fish are relieved...